

For most of my life, I have been very involved with my family's harvest operation. I can safely say it's in my blood. Every year I look forward to traveling with the crew throughout the summer. I have stayed very involved, and I have had various experiences that have impacted my life greatly.

I am proud of the large amount of participation I have had in the family business throughout the years. Starting at the early age of 8, my father taught me how to drive the tractor and grain cart. In the upcoming years, I learned how to drive a combine, as well. This past year, I obtained my CDL license and hauled grain most of the summer. I also had the privilege of managing a harvest crew of 5 workers at some of the stops. During the time that I have spent with our harvesting business, I have always been eager and active in everything we do.

Because of my involvement, I have had numerous experiences. Being part of a harvest crew with fourteen combines for a few years, I have encountered many breakdowns. I gained much experience from maintaining these combines in the summer and restoring them in the winter. Another interesting experience I had was pulling out combines that have been stuck in the mud. When things were too muddy for tractors and other combines to pull them out, sometimes we've had to use a winch truck. Also, I have seen various crops on the harvest run including corn, wheat, soybeans, sorghum, canola, guar beans, oats, barley and Egyptian wheat. I have a never-ending list of wonderful experiences which I will never forget.

From our family's harvest operations, I have learned a lot from all of my encounters. Having foreign workers for several years has introduced me to other cultures. I believe that with the time I spent in our harvest operation, I have gained many qualities such as leadership, organization, and the ability to get along with different types of people. Now, I am very eager to begin college life. I plan on attending Kansas State University majoring in mechanical engineering. I am eager to take on this challenging field just as I have taken on many challenges throughout my harvesting career. During the summers, I intend to continue being active in our family's harvesting operation.

Overall, I will always have a large interest in harvest. It is one thing that has kept my life exciting. My huge involvement and multiple experiences will continue to help me through my college studies. My family harvest operation is one of the best opportunities that I have had, and I will never fail to remember it.